

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A bucket and removable lid construction comprising, in combination:

a bucket having a generally cylindrical side wall with an open top, said top including a first, radially outwardly extending top rib, said top rib including a top side and an underside, said top side including an upwardly projecting tongue; and

a lid including a center panel for covering the open top of the bucket, said lid further including a peripheral section with a depending skirt, said skirt including a first inwardly extending flange for engaging the underside of the bucket top rib to retain the lid on the bucket, said lid further including a downwardly projecting groove ~~[[from]]~~ in the peripheral section for engaging the tongue and sealing the lid ~~[[onto]]~~ on the bucket, said lid further including a tear strip on the skirt, said tear strip including removable portions of the first flange ~~[[for]]~~ from engaging the bucket rib, and other portions of the first flange remaining for engaging the bucket rib.

2. (Currently Amended) The combination of Claim 1 wherein the bucket includes a second rib on the outside of the bucket spaced downwardly from the first rib, and wherein the

skirt of the lid includes a second flange spaced downwardly from the first flange for engaging the second rib of the bucket, and wherein the tear strip includes the skirt extension and removable portions of the second flange.

3. (Currently Amended) The combination of Claim 1 wherein the bucket further includes a separate hoop member spaced outwardly from the outside wall of the bucket and attached thereto by at least one annular wall section, and wherein said skirt extension of the lid fits against the hoop member when the lid ~~including~~ and the skirt extension ~~[[is]]~~ are on the bucket.

4. (Original) The construction of Claim 1 wherein the lid includes a depending inner flange spaced from the skirt and sealingly engaged against the inner side wall of the bucket when the lid is on the bucket.

5. (Original) The construction of Claim 1 wherein the lid includes at least a first circular hoop spaced radially inward from the skirt and generally parallel to the skirt.

6. (Original) The construction of Claim 1 wherein the lid includes a first circular hoop spaced radially inward from the skirt and a second circular hoop spaced radially inward from the first circular hoop.

7. (Original) The construction of Claims 5 or 6 wherein the first circular hoop fits against the inside wall of the bucket.

8. (Original) The construction of Claims 5 or 6 including reinforcing fillets connecting the hoops.

9. (Original) The construction of Claim 1 wherein the top side of the first rib includes an upwardly projecting tongue having a width in cross section and two converging faces connected by an apex surface, and wherein the lid peripheral section includes a bottom surface with a recess groove, said groove for receipt of the tongue said converging faces of the tongue each forming a seal with the groove.

10. (Original) The construction of Claim 1 or claim 9 wherein the radial extent of the top rib of the bucket is greater than the radial extent of the second rib and the first inwardly extending locking flange has a minimum radius at least equal to the maximum radius of the second rib.

11. (Original) The construction of Claim 1 wherein the first flange includes only an opposed surface forming an acute angle with the top rib underside.

12. (Original) The construction of Claim 1 or Claim 9 wherein the second flange includes an opposed surface in flat contact with the underside of the second rib.

13. (Currently Amended) The construction of Claim 1 or Claim 9 wherein the bucket includes a second radially outwardly extending rib spaced from the top rib and said skirt includes a second inwardly extending flange for engagement with the second rib, said tear strip including said second flange and removable portions of said first flange.

14. (Currently Amended) A bucket and lid construction comprising, in combination:

a bucket having a generally circular cross section side wall with an inside wall, an open top including an upwardly projecting tongue, and an outside wall with a first radially, outwardly projecting side rib and a second radially, outwardly projecting side rib spaced from the first ~~[[rig]]~~ rib;

a lid for covering the top of the bucket, said lid including a depending skirt with groove for receipt of the tongue, a first radially inwardly projecting flange for engaging the first rib to hold the lid on the bucket, a second radially inwardly projecting flange for engaging the second inwardly projecting flange for engaging the second rib to hold the lid on the bucket, and a circumferential tear strip for removing portions of the second flange.

15. (Original) The construction of Claim 14 wherein the tear strip includes a manual tab.

16. (Original) The construction of Claim 14 further including a second depending skirt defining a hoop spaced radially inwardly from the skirt for engagement against the inside wall of the bucket.